

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DOT-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SCS-03

L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /051 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6611

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

MARAD WASHDC

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CVIS OCLR NO UR US

SUBJECT: PASSENGERS OF US CARGO SHIPS IN SOVIET PORTS

REF: STATE 089291

1. PALADICH, DEPUTY CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECTION OF SOVIET MINISTRY OF MARITIME FLEET, CALLED APRIL 21 WITH REFERENCE TO TREICHEL/ZHUK CONVERSATION OF FEBRUARY 10 (SIC), 1977, WHERE PROBLEMS OF PASSENGERS ON US CARGO SHIPS IN SOVIET PORTS WERE DISCUSSED. PALADICH WONDERED WHAT THESE PROBLEMS MIGHT BE, NOTING THAT ARTICLE 5 OF SOVIET MEMORANDUM COVERING PROCEDURES IN SOVIET PORTS (IN BILATERAL MARITIME AGREEMENT OF 12/29/75) APPEARS TO COVER NON-CREW MEMBERS WISHING TO GO ASHORE. HE SUGGESTED THAT DEPARTMENT RAISE SUCH PROBLEMS WITH HZAVAD.

2. AFTER REVIEWING MATTER WITH COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS, WHO ATTENDED FEBRUARY 23 MEETING ON SUBJECT, E/C COUNSELOR CALLED PALADICH TO STATE THAT CERTAIN SHIPPING COMPANY OFFICIALS WISHING TO TRAVEL AS PASSENGERS ON MERCHANT SHIPS HAD BEEN REFERRED BY SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICIALS TO INTOURIST, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH HAD NOT BEEN INTERESTED IN THEIR TRAVEL BECAUSE NO PREPAID INTOURIST PROGRAM WAS INVOLVED. OFFICIALS, CONSEQUENTLY, HAD RECEIVED NO VISAS AND HAD TO REMAIN ON BOARD SHIP IN PORT. PALADICH SAID HE THOUGHT ISSUE WAS BROADER AND INCLUDED PAYING PASSENGERS ON CARGO SHIPS. THERE SHOULD BE NO TROUBLE IN THEIR OBTAINING A SOVIET VISA IN US, HE THOUGHT. INTOURIST SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN PROCESS. E/C COUNSELOR SAID THAT

HE DID NOT HAVE DETAILS BUT ASSUMED THAT SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAD PERHAPS BEEN UNWILLING TO PROCEED WITHOUT INTOURIST ENDORSEMENT OF VISA REQUEST.

3. PALADICH AGAIN SUGGESTED THAT DEPARTMENT RAISE PROBLEM WITH ZHAVAD. AFTER NOTING THAT ZHAVAD COULD ALSO APPROACH DEPARTMENT, COUNSELOR SAID HE WOULD ASK DEPARTMENT FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PASS TO PALADICH. AT THAT POINT NEXT STEP COULD BE CONSIDERED.

4. WE WONDER IF SUDDEN SOVIET INTEREST IN THIS MATTER STEMS FROM PROBLEMS OF SWITCHING SOVIET CREWS IN US PORTS (REFTEL). WHATEVER THE CAUSE, THE MINISTRY APPEARS WILLING TO BE HELPFUL. CAN DEPARTMENT PROVIDE ANY FURTHER DETAILS WHICH WE COULD PASS TO PALADICH? IS FEBRUARY 10 SESSION CITED BY PALADICH DISCRETE FROM FEBRUARY 23 MEETING CITED REFTTEL?

5. WITH REGARD TO VISAS FOR SOVIET CREW MEMBERS TRAVELING TO JOIN SOVIET SHIPS IN US PORTS, EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE ITS LONGSTANDING PRACTICE OF DOCUMENTING REPLACEMENTS THROUGH USE OF INDIVIDUAL TRANSIT VISAS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON WHETHER EMBASSY SHOULD REQUIRE SUBMISSION OF REVISED FORM I-418 (CREW LIST) OR APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL "D" VISA, IN ADDITION TO REQUEST FOR INDIVIDUAL TRANSIT VISA.
TOON

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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